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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF

NEGLECTED CHILDREN

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

1917



EDMONTON

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1918.

EDMONTON, Alberta, March 19th, 1918.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA,
Parliament Buildings.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith the Ninth Annual Report of this branch of your Department, working within the provisions of *The Children's Protection Act of Alberta*, *the Juvenile Courts Act of Alberta*, and the *Dominion Delinquents Act*.

In doing so, allow me to express my appreciation of the sympathetic support you have given to this branch.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. M. McDONALD,

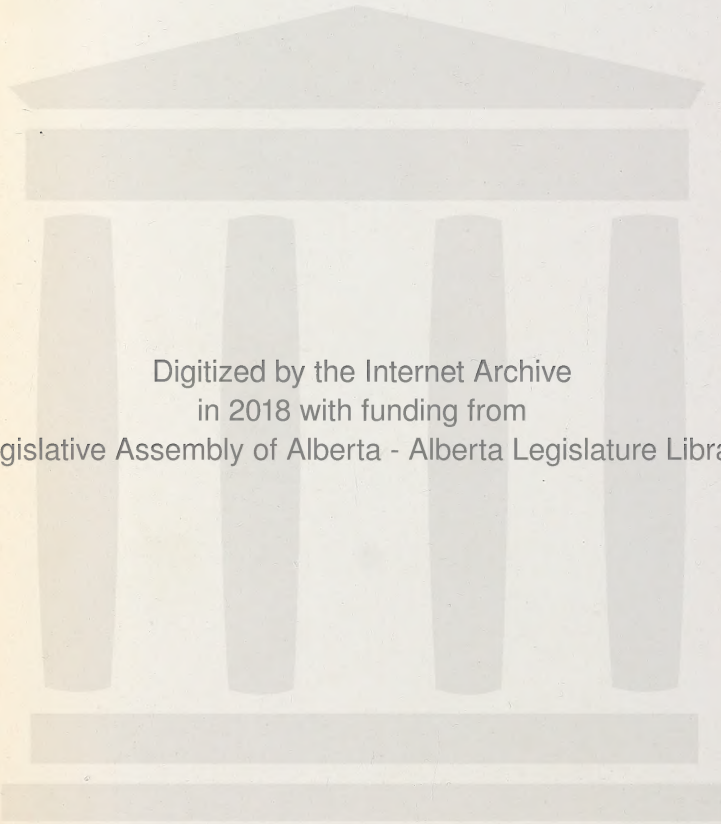
Superintendent.

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What opportunity has this child?



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MODERN CHILD-SAVING ACTIVITIES

Society has been slow to learn the most obvious lessons. It has taken us centuries to understand that to train and educate the child is worth infinitely more than to labor with the deficiencies of the adult, with his crystalized habits and morals. That this lesson is at last "getting home" is clear from the number of agencies that are now active in the work of child saving. Many of them will, no doubt, have a direct effect in relieving the pressure on such a Department as this.

Among the preventive measures advocated may be cited the movement under different names and forms, which we find in

Eliminating the Unfit many places on this continent, looking toward giving every child the opportunity to be well born. As someone has said, "Every child has the right to be well born, for if it be not well born, it were better it were not born at all." For years our Agricultural Departments have been educating stock-raisers how to eliminate the low-bred and unfit from their herds. Only recently have we thought it wise to educate the public how to eliminate the unfit, the diseased, the imbecile and the mental defective from the human species. It is not too much to demand that a clean bill of health be presented by each of the contracting parties before a marriage license is granted.

There is, at present, an agitation to improve our facilities for conserving the health of children. Child-saving agencies know

Conserving Health that a large percentage of the children coming under their observation suffer from disease and physical defects. Much of this human waste is easily preventable. Sir George Newman, Chief

Medical Officer of the Board of Education in England, states that there are a million children of school age in England so defective or diseased as to be unable to derive reasonable benefit from education. In recent years our city school boards have thought it wise to provide doctors and nurses to attend to the physical well-being of the school children.

It is generally supposed that the health of the children in the country is better than that of city children. Better air, freedom of exercise, wholesome food, are thought to contribute to this result. In actual fact, the opposite is true. The health of the children in the rural home and the country school is not above that of those in the city. Accurate statistics would, no doubt, indicate that the rural death rate in this Province exceeds that in urban communities. Recently the Education Department has announced that the Provincial Government will undertake the medical supervision of school children in every part of the Province. This is one further evidence that the child is coming into its own. The logical sequence of this movement

will be the physical examination and treatment (when necessary) by competent medical officers, of every infant in the Province.

Broken homes have been the direct cause of a very large percentage of destitution, neglect and delinquency. The Welfare

**Mothers'
Allowances**

Board of the City of Edmonton, states that at least 30% of the money expended by it in relief is given to mothers who are saddled with the double obligation of rearing their children and providing for them a livelihood. This fact was noted some few years ago in New Zealand, Australia, in some of the States of the American Union, and more recently in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and as a result, a system of paying mothers certain allowances to enable them to live in comparative comfort whilst rearing their children, has spread with wild-fire rapidity. An agitation for similar legislation is now on foot in British Columbia and Alberta.

It is understood that great care will have to be exercised in working out such legislation. Mothers who are the most worthy will, in all probability, be the most timid and backward about making application to such a fund, while those who have the least to commend them will be the most persistent in presenting their claims.

Careful investigation before making grants and continued and exacting supervision after they are made will have to be a part of the plan for putting such legislation into operation.

In spite of these difficulties, it is generally recognized that it is the state's duty to see that mothers who make a valuable contribution to the human wealth of the community in rearing boys and girls to reputable manhood and womanhood, should be provided for in a suitable way.

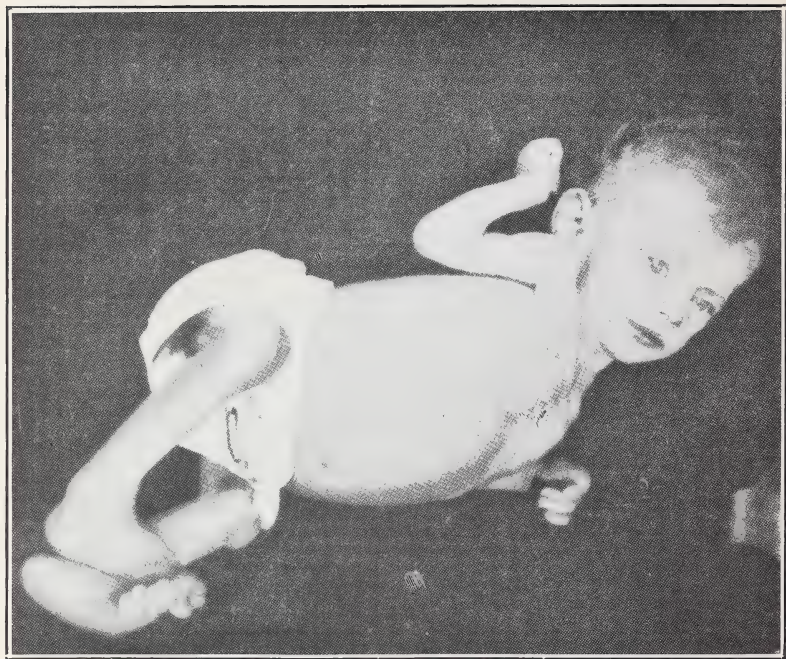
DEPENDENTS

During the year 1917 the Department cared for 905 neglected and dependent children. It was natural that the state should become responsible for the care, maintenance and education of a considerable proportion of these. The tragedies of human life are such that a number of children are left orphans without any provision being made for their up-bringing.

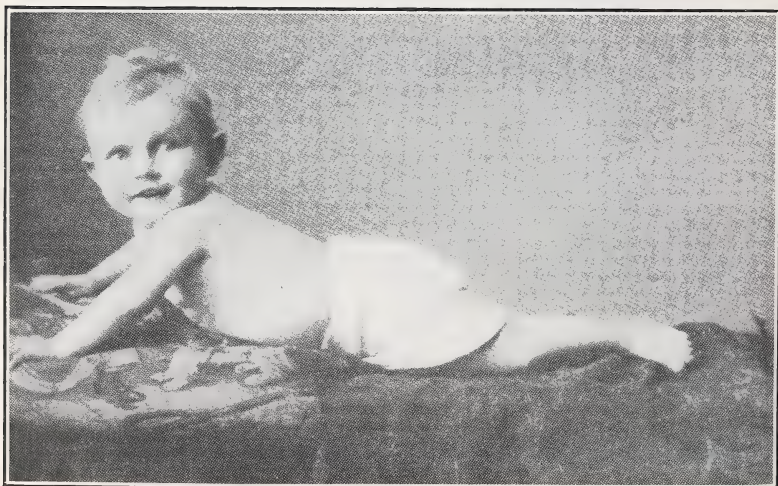
To one class of dependents we feel it necessary to call particular attention. During the year we dealt with 89 children born out of wedlock. The problem has sometimes been considered by social reformers, who had an eye only to the welfare of the mother. At other times workers have undertaken to solve it with an eye only to the welfare of the child. In all too many cases, the circumstance was looked on as one to be tided over with the least possible difficulty, and certainly the least possible publicity.

Children Born Out of Wedlock

We are of the opinion that these cases should be given the very closest attention. In the course adopted, the well-being of the child should be the first consideration. Experience has shown that Providence and nature hold no grudge against these children, although society has stigmatized them with humiliating names. If normal and healthy, the illegitimate child may, under proper circumstances, develop into a useful citizen. At the same time, it would only seem reasonable that further laws for the protection of the mother should be enacted and that those already enacted should be most rigidly enforced. The mother, in addition to enduring the disgrace, must, too frequently, become responsible for the expense of confinement and of subsequently caring for the child. The idea that seems to have prevailed in many quarters that the paternity of the child should not be too closely investigated, savours of the time when women were regarded as the property and tools of men. In Norway, the child born out of wedlock may, with the mother's permission, take the name of the father. It may inherit its proportion of the father's estate, and there is adequate machinery provided to compel him to maintain his illegitimate offspring. Only by some such programme can the state discharge its obligation to the helpless innocents, who, at best, must suffer a life-long penalty for the sin of their parents.



Neglected, picked up by a Child Saving Society in a big city.



Six months afterwards. A good illustration of what care and medical treatment can do for a child.

NEGLECT

In dealing with neglected children, the Department assumes that there is an irreducible minimum to which every child is entitled. The child should have food, it should be wholesome and sufficient, so that the young life may be properly nourished and become strong and fully developed to meet the responsibilities of adult citizenship. The child must be decently and comfortably clothed. It must have shelter. It is not sufficient that it be housed in a building that will protect it from the storm and cold. The house must be sanitary. It must have a sufficient number of cubic feet of air for each person. It should have no bad plumbing. It ought to have a reasonable amount of sunlight and fresh air. Otherwise the child will grow up a wizened, half-developed, thin-blooded man or woman, a burden to relatives or a charge upon the public.

In a Province such as this, where there are abundant resources and a sufficient amount of work at reasonable wages for every able-bodied person, it would not seem necessary that any child should be robbed of these prime necessities.

There are, however, apart from cases of sickness and other unavoidable causes, a number of children who suffer because of the carelessness or indifference of their parents or guardians. Some few months ago the writer saw the home of a woman who was receiving something over \$70.00 per month for the keep of her four children. The inside of her domicile was indescribably filthy. Refuse that must have been accumulating for days, if not for weeks, was lying about. The children were in rags and vermin. There was no reason why these normally bright children should be robbed of the comforts and necessities of life other than that their mother did not take her responsibilities seriously and could not be persuaded that her treatment of her children was in any sense criminal.

It is not an infrequent thing—perhaps more frequent in the country than in the city—to find a one-roomed shack in which families ranging in number from six to ten, eat, sleep, dress and perform all the functions of life. These places are anything but healthy. Living in them children are apt to lose those natural reserves so necessary to high morality.

A more serious offence than to deprive children of food, clothing, or shelter, is to compel them to live in an atmosphere of vice, in which they are almost certain to develop vicious and immoral tendencies. The definition of neglect in The Children's Protection Act is broad enough to cover these cases. We regret to have to say that the greater number of complaints in-

vestigated during the last year were of this class. Many of the parents still retain a love for their children, and are broken-hearted at the very mention of being parted from them. In some instances, the thought of so serious a penalty being inflicted causes them to mend their ways, but many of them have lived in sin so long that they are incapable of breaking the chains of habit that bind.

In dealing with the problem of neglect the first consideration must be given to the home. Many Child Saving Agencies have

The Home the Cornerstone been censured for breaking up homes. In extreme instances, it is in the interest of society as well as the children that homes should be broken

up. Knowing, as we do, however, the value of home life, and appreciating the fact that the home is the cornerstone of the structure known as civilized society, every effort is made to keep it intact. It is the business of the officers and agents of the Children's Aid Societies, and the Inspectors of this Department, when dealing with these homes, to make investigation into the particular elements that militate against child-life, and by wise counsel and advice to the parents, as well as by warning, to have them remedied. During the year scores of cases have been reported to us where, after investigation, it was found that it was possible to improve the home conditions without taking any drastic action. In some instances where it seemed impossible at first to make any impression upon the parents or guardians, or where they appeared incapable of realizing their responsibilities, it was necessary to take the children from the home for a brief period. The fact that this was done by the order of a regular Juvenile Court proved to be just the shock the easy-going and negligent parents needed. It will be noted from our report that 362 children were placed back in their own homes or with relatives. A number of these belong to families where sickness or other misfortune had come, and the Department assisted simply in tiding them over the difficulty, but the great majority belong to the class to which we have just referred. Where the home is kept intact and children placed in it, constant and careful supervision is exercised for an indefinite period.

In not a few instances, it seemed unwise to protect the home at the expense of the children. The nature of the home, in nine cases out of ten, determines the character of the children. For that reason it was found necessary to take 172 children out of their own homes and find for them suitable foster homes.

It would be impossible to describe the condition of many of these children when they were brought to the Shelter. In that Institution some of them saw a table for the first time. Others were surprised to know that there was such a comfortable contrivance as a bed. There, others had the first opportunity to play with children and to learn the very vital lesson of how to live in company with other people.

DEPENDENTS, 905

Sex of Dependents		Under 7.....	
Male	454	“ 8.....	45
Female	451	“ 9.....	36
		“ 10.....	42
Number dealt with		“ 11.....	40
		“ 12.....	45
		“ 13.....	57
		“ 14.....	59
		“ 15.....	74
		“ 16.....	68
		“ 17.....	23
		“ 18.....	4
			<hr/> 905

Age of Dependents	
Under 1.....	150
“ 2.....	66
“ 3.....	52
“ 4.....	48
“ 5.....	20
“ 6.....	39

Religion of Dependents	
Presbyterian	135
Methodist	77
Church of England	145
Roman Catholic	203
Greek Catholic	28
Greek Orthodox	13
Protestant	143
Baptist	53
Lutheran	73
Salvation Army	6
Ruthenian	2
Church of Christ	2
Adventist	4
Evangelist	1
No Religion	20
	<hr/> 905

Nationality of Dependents	
Canadian	368
American	80
English	109
French	21
French-Canadian	20
Scotch	45
Irish	17
Russian	92
Austrian	25
Norwegian	11
Danish	4
Swedish	11
Roumanian	3
Hungarian	16
German	35
Galician	3
Half-breed	8
Belgian	1
Dutch	7
Polish	5
Negro	6
Finn	2
Scandinavian	1
Welsh	10
Serbian	1
Ruthenian	1
Lithuanian	1
Italian	2
	<hr/> 905

Placing of Dependents	
Placed at work	212
Adopted	173
Returned to relatives	362
In Protestant Institutions	24
In R.C. Institutions	14
Died	15
Ran away	9
Married	1
Deported	1
In Shelters	94
	<hr/> 905

Dependents, Electoral Districts From

Edmonton	325	St. Albert	5
Calgary	249	Innisfree	8
Medicine Hat	64	Bow Valley	6
Lethbridge	10	Stony Plain	2
Wetaskiwin	3	Victoria	19
Ponoka	8	Pembina	13
Red Deer	1	Leduc	2
Innisfail	5	Rocky Mountain	11
Ribstone	12	Vegreville	14
Lac Ste. Anne	9	Pincher Creek	9
Macleod	7	Stettler	4
Sturgeon	6	Olds	3

Coronation	12	High River	2
Hand Hills	15	Nanton	2
Redcliff	9	Cardston	4
Lacombe	4	Taber	2
St. Paul	8	Cochrane	1
Wainwright	7	Alexandra	2
Didsbury	1	Edson	4
Beaver River	3	Gleichen	2
Acadia	2	Sedgewick	1
Outside Province	11	Whitford	2
Camrose	2	Peace River	2
Athabasca	5		
Vermilion	7		905

Dependents, Placed Out in Electoral Districts

Edmonton	305	High River	1
Calgary	141	Vermilion	5
Medicine Hat	47	Didsbury	3
Lethbridge	11	St. Albert	3
Wetaskiwin	1	Cardston	4
Red Deer	3	Acadia	7
Lacombe	9	Beaver River	1
Stettler	10	Camrose	9
Ribstone	11	Athabasca	4
Sturgeon	12	Claresholm	1
Ponoka	2	Macleod	1
Nanton	2	Edson	1
Wainwright	6	Warner	1
Coronation	3	Pincher Creek	1
Innisfail	6	Olds	2
Outside Province	30	Okotoks	1
Leduc	5	Bow Valley	1
Victoria	8	Alexandra	3
Pembina	12	St. Paul	1
Gleichen	9	Whitford	1
Hand Hills	6	Peace River	1
Sedgewick	7	In Shelters	91
Vegreville	9	In Hospitals	46
Rocky Mountain	7	Died	15
Redcliff	10	Ran away	9
Lac Ste. Anne	6	Deported	2
Stony Plain	2		
Cochrane	4		905
Taber	6		

IN PRIVATE HOMES

Since its inception, this Department has emphasized the work of finding suitable private homes for all normal children coming under its care. During the last few years the Child Saving Agencies of the Continent have placed so much emphasis upon the placing-out system that it would almost seem absurd to argue further in its favor. Owing, however, to the fact that in some quarters there has been a suggestion that a string of Institutions should be erected across this Continent to care for war orphans, it may be as well that the case for the private home be set out again. In order that the readers of this report may know the opinion of the leading social workers of the Continent, we cite the following:

An editorial from the September number of "The Survey," the leading organ for the social work of this continent, reads in

What Experts Say

part as follows: "Don't build 'war orphans' homes' after the war. This might be laid down as rule number one for states planning social programmes in connection with the war, to judge from the emphasis put upon it by Hastings H. Hart, director of the Child Helping Department of the Russel Sage Foundation, in a report just made to the West Virginia Executive State Council of Defence. Both the governor and the council asked Dr. Hart to suggest a programme 'to meet conditions growing out of the prosecution of the war with Germany.' Clarence L. Stonaker, Secretary of the New Jersey State Charities Aid and Prison Reform Association, assisted in the survey.

"Dr. Hart says:

" 'In practice the orphans' home plan did not prove entirely satisfactory. It was very expensive, involving the maintenance of children at a liberal cost for many years. It was an unnatural plan of living. However well-conducted the homes might be, the children were, nevertheless, deprived of the privileges and opportunities of natural family home life. It was a cruel plan.'

"Dr. H. S. Gilbertson, in September 'Review of Reviews,' on Mayor Mitchell's administration of New York City, said:

" 'It had been the custom of the city for many years to accept unquestionably the State Board of Charities certificate of fitness, for the scores of institutions under denominational control, as their warrant for receiving city funds for the care of dependent children. An investigation proved that the

New York's Experience

management of some of these institutions was a scandal and a disgrace. Apart from this, the Charities Commissioner has introduced and gradually extended a system whereby as many normal children as possible are placed in private homes, the

city, if need be, contributing a sum to their support, payment being made to the foster parents instead of to the institution. The city now places no child of less than eight years in an institution.'

"The State Charities Commission for Illinois says in its report for the year 1916:

"The State's system and method of caring for dependent orphans and other classes of dependent children is improving. There has been a marked change in the spirit and the tone of the various private orphanages in Illinois. Many of them, however, are far from a desirable standard. There are enough now to care for all demands for some years to come. There should be some way of preventing the organization of others. If those we have were properly financed, they could meet every requirement and reach a higher level of service; then why dissipate money on new ones, which, like old, will suffer for money, when those already in existence are big and numerous enough to meet all requirements if they had a little more money? The attention being given to the placing out of children and the growing feeling against the orphanage as a substitute for normal home life, poor though it be, are encouraging signs.'

"The Report of the Committees on Children of the Twenty-first State Conference of Charities, says:

"It saves the child from a life-long memory of institution life and possibly his first association with undesirable children; it permits that the little one's individuality may be closely observed, his habits, his temperament and character studied, as well as his reactions under normal conditions. Also if the child is in a boarding home the prompt, permanent disposition is a matter of more immediate concern because of the unusual outlay of money than when he is in an institution, which would be maintained irrespective of his presence. Further, it is most economical, as the expense of investment and upkeep of an institution is avoided, and presumably the money which would be expended maintaining the institutions during weeks of idleness can be conserved and used to advantage in securing splendid care for the child when the occasion arises. That is, such counties could afford to pay sufficient board to make it an inducement for the more comfortably living members of the community to board the child temporarily.'"

In 1917 the Department found homes for 747 children; 173 were placed under adoption agreement, 212 were placed under temporary agreement or for work, and 362 were

Good Homes Available

returned to the care of relatives. The visiting inspector's report, which appears elsewhere, will indicate that the great majority of these have been satisfactorily placed. In the history of the Department it has been found that about 85% find suitable homes and remain permanently in them. The remaining 15%, for reasons peculiar to the home or the child, have had to be placed some two or three times before the arrangement could be considered satisfactory. We are glad to state that there has been a sufficient number of applications for children to meet the need. Peculiarly

fortunate are some of the infants and younger children. Not a few of them have been placed in homes where they will be the sole heir, not only to the affection of their foster parents, but also to considerable property.

When people for love of the child will undertake to care for a helpless infant during the years when it can only be a trouble and expense, there is little reason to question their motives or sincerity. On the other hand, when requests come for older children, who can be of service in the home or on the farm, great care must be exercised. It can be said that many people who take these children and receive a considerable amount of help from them are considerate enough to give them in return not only good food and a comfortable place in which to sleep, but also to make their lives happy. We are always glad to find such a home as this for a growing boy or girl. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that there have been some who, when taking children, have thought only of their own advantage. In a few instances the boy has been worked as a little hired man and the girl has been dealt with simply as a household drudge. Perhaps the tendency to make the most out of child-labor has been accentuated owing to war conditions and the scarcity of adult labor. The fact has made the task of protecting these children a little more difficult. A great advance has been made during the past year in that an additional inspector has been placed upon the staff, making it possible for us to visit the majority of these homes and get an independent personal report in addition to the reports of clergymen, physicians and respected people in the neighborhood, which we ~~always~~ invariably insist upon before the child is placed.



Happy in their foster homes.

WHAT FOSTER PARENTS SAY

From the following sample letters selected from thousands which we have received, the reader will be able to judge the character of some of the homes in which children have been placed:—

" . . . I am pleased to report the splendid progress of our little girl, and to say that she has had a splendid summer and fall, having enjoyed the very best of health. She enters the winter with the spirit of a real Canadian. This little girl has so entwined herself about our lives that our whole thought seems to be concentrated on her future, and it is our one great wish now to be able to give her a good education. I was sorry to know that you did not see her when Mrs. . . . visited the home with her. However, we may have the pleasure at a future date."

" . . . Just a few lines to let you know that everything is all right. The little one is fine, and says everything. Life wouldn't be very much without her now. She seems to be very fond of us both. We have been to Vancouver for a little trip, and I neglected writing sooner. We have an auto now, and the baby certainly enjoys the fresh air. She is the picture of health, tanned brown as a berry. I want to take a trip home to the States this fall, and if so, I will stop off at Edmonton and call in and see you and bring the baby. You wouldn't know her. She certainly has a good home, and I intend to do everything to bring her up right, if God spares us both in health and strength. She is awfully spoiled, but that is her daddy's fault. . . ."

" . . . We intend to keep . . . In fact, we have had every intention of doing so since first she arrived. She is a dear little girl, and we are prepared to treat her as our own, and will endeavor to give her a first-class education. She will be of school age next month, but I prefer to keep her at home for a few months at least, to give our home influence a better chance to do its work. She already knows more than the average child who has spent a year in school. I speak from experience, as I was a primary teacher for three years. We hope to start her at music very soon, and are hoping that she may prove to be musically inclined. She is contented and happy, has been so from the start and wishes to stay with us. I should be much obliged if you would as soon as possible take the necessary steps to have her made legally ours, as we do not wish to run any risk of losing her."

" . . . Just a line to let you know our little son is well and growing big and going to school every day, and is learning nicely.

"He is a beautiful child and the life of our home, and so much like his 'papa.' We don't tell, but God sent him direct to us. As everybody would say, he was a . . . anyway. Grandpa's youngest brother died in the West, and grandpa says he thinks . . . must be his child, as he is him over again. His grandpa and grandma think more of him . . . than any grandchild they have. His grandma says she never saw him pout, and he always speaks the truth, and is always singing or whistling."

" . . . has been with us over two months, and according to your wishes, I am writing to let you know she is the in the best of health. The first fortnight she was with us, she was sick, having caught cold on the

train coming over. We got no rest at night for about a fortnight, her breathing so heavy at night and her throat so sore she would call out 'mamma' like a baby four or five times, and I would have to get up and give her hot lemon-water. She is a very affectionate child and full of life, but she likes her own way. We are enclosing a snapshot of her and her Xmas tree. . . . wishes to thank Miss Clint for her kindness in sending her that lovely large parcel. She said to me, 'Mamma, I am so glad someone in Calgary thought of me, but you and daddy seem like my very own now, and you will never send me away.'

" . . . Our little fellow is well, has not had a day's sickness and is a very good child, I think the very best boy in town, but then we all think our boys are the best. I really don't know how I would do without him. He told me the other day, the first time he went to Edmonton, he was going to see Mr. . . . and all the boys in the Shelter and tell them if they were all good boys they would get a nice home some day like him, and he was always going to be good. I hope he will . . ."

" . . . I once again take great pleasure in informing you of the welfare of our girl. She does not seem a child any longer. She stands on a box and washes the dishes and says she is going to do all the work for me when I get old. She says, 'Will I be old in the Spring?' She says some strange things. She is as sensible and thoughtful as most children twice her age. She had the grippe a couple of weeks ago, but seems to be all right again. The fine weather we had did not seem to be healthy. I am glad we are in the country, for it is much healthier."

" . . . I should have written you sooner regarding our little boy . . . but have been busy and neglected it. The little fellow is well, hearty and happy. He is full of vim, push and mischief, and a very bright intelligent lad, and we are most proud of him. I don't think I ever saw a more beautiful child. We shall try to bring him up and give him the very best training we are able to do, for he is undoubtedly the beginning of a great man if he gets started out in the right way. I think a child like him could be great and good or vice versa, for he has the intelligence for either, but we shall hope and pray for the former. He is a treasure in our home, and we hope we will live to see him grown to manhood and to possess good moral habits. . . ."

" . . . This is to advise you that we have moved to the above address. Our baby is perfectly well and happy, and has become a great source of happiness to my wife and myself. She can now walk and is beginning to talk. She is receiving the best of care and attention we can possibly give a child. I may state that her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. . . . want to take her back, but we would not consent to this under any consideration, as we have loved and cared for her as our own. I am sure we would be broken-hearted to give her up. Trusting you will not assist these people in taking the child from us. . . ."

" . . . As my ward . . . will be ten years old on Saturday and will have been with me for almost six months, it seems to be a suitable opportunity of writing one of the semi-annual letters which you require. During the period she has been perfectly well, with the exception of a slight cold lasting barely two days. She is four feet, five and a half inches in height, and weighs 78 lbs., and is rosy and dimpled. Her behaviour is perfectly satisfactory in every way. Although the rural school has been closed for the past two months, I have given her lessons just as usual, with the result that she has read five Grade I. Readers and is in every way ready to begin Grade II. work on March 4th. She has also incidentally acquired a friend of miscellaneous knowledge, such as an acquaintance with Mrs. . . . and . . . which will, I hope, be useful to her in the future."

DELINQUENCY

Startling statements have recently been made with reference to the increase of child delinquency in war time. A year and a half after the beginning of the war statistics taken from seventeen of the largest cities in Great Britain showed an increase of the number of children charged with punishable offences of about thirty-four per cent. The increase referred to all children below sixteen, and was noted in practically every city consulted. Larceny rose nearly 50%, and there were large increases in theft and similar offences.

The inspector of auxiliary classes in Ontario declares that there is reason to think that here, as in Great Britain, while the number of men who have offended against the law is much smaller than before the war, the number of boys who are before the Juvenile Courts is greater. Even Germany has become alarmed at this ever-rising tide of juvenile crime.

Albert Hellwig, a German Police Court Judge, in a book which he published some months ago, gave as a reason for this increase the abnormal conditions found in every country, and in addition, the excessive excitement of the childish imagination by the events of the war, especially as they are depicted in trashy literature. Among the brutalizing influences, acting on our young people in war times, he notes the hate spirit. To inoculate the children with hate breeds lust for revenge, and can only bear evil fruit. The nemesis of hate has taken possession of the youth of Germany.

Last year the Department was compelled to report an increase of about 35% in the number of delinquent children appearing before our Juvenile Courts. We are glad to be able to say that at the end of 1916 the tide reached its maximum, and whilst during 1917 it did not recede to any appreciable extent, no further increase was shown. In Edmonton, for instance, there was a slight decrease.

Someone has said that when God made man, he made the world significant, but that when he made a boy, he made it interesting. On reading this, another writer remarked that if God made man out of the dust of the earth, he must have made boys out of dust and electricity. It is the electricity that constitutes the boy problem. Electricity, properly controlled and directed, is one of man's best servants. Uncontrolled and misdirected, it becomes a most deadly peril. Similarly, it may be said that the energy in the boy, properly controlled and directed, will push him far towards efficiency and success, but the very same force uncontrolled and misdirected will land him in the Juvenile Court, and later, in the penitentiary.

The Delinquent Boy

For the protection of the boy the home is primarily responsible. The great majority of boys who commit serious delinquencies are either living midst poor home surroundings or are out of joint with them. Sometimes the cause is difficult to detect, but when one after another from the same family, upon reaching a certain age, becomes delinquent, it is natural to suppose that the cause, perhaps not detected by the investigator, lies in the home atmosphere or discipline.

Home Environment

It is noticeable also that at a certain age, when boys begin to taste for the first time the freedom of wage-earning, the percentage of delinquency increases. Additional spending money tempts them to new pleasures. This, together with the fact that they are passing through that critical period in a boy's life, marked by love for adventure and irritation with restraint, makes them daring.

In a number of instances, we have found boys in country places, left by their parents or other legal guardians under the care of individuals who had no interest in them, save the fact that they were good servants. In one case a boy, whose father was committed on a very serious offence, was left in charge of a crippled brother much older than himself. The brother abused him and there is little doubt drove the younger lad into most serious offences.

The exciting movie must bear some share of the blame. Too often boys who are at the age when they should be occupied with games that afford opportunity for the greatest

The Influence of the Movie

amount of activity, spend hour after hour before the movie screen. Their minds in some instances become sordid, in others excited. Not a few boys have had their first delinquency suggested to them by some daring screen scene. Our newspapers have reported quite fully concerning the boy who left his home in Buffalo, and made his way by way of Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec and Winnipeg, to Edmonton, living on his wits, and doing the banks for considerable sums of money. There is little doubt from the story which he tells that the whole escapade was suggested to him by a movie picture which he had witnessed. In ninety-three cases brought before the Court, it was found that the father was serving at the Front, and the boy had gone beyond his mother's control. Boys are great hero worshippers and at a certain critical stage in their lives, what they need perhaps more than anything else is the companionship and example of a good, honest, upright man. If their father cannot or will not be this to them, some other person in the community could render a good service by giving a little care and effort to the lad.

During the year some 492 boys appeared before the Juvenile Court for various offences. From the statistics given here it will be seen that some of these were not very serious, but in a few cases grave charges were preferred. Sometimes a boy surprises you by the ingenuity and depth of his planning.

It is recognized by social workers that the delinquent girl is a more difficult problem than that of the boy. Fewer girls appear before Juvenile Courts than boys, but in the majority of cases the offence is serious. Many of these young girls lose all that is of real worth in their lives before they can be expected to realize the seriousness of their position. They have lost so much, they find it difficult to regain their proper places in society. Perhaps 80% of the girls who could not be handled outside of the Juvenile Court have been guilty of immorality. New causes for this have not been detected, but the old causes seem to have been working overtime.

The Delinquent Girl

Improperly supervised dance-halls and carelessly managed rooming-houses lend themselves to the schemes of the designing man, and are immediately responsible for the downfall of many a young girl. Back of this, however, is the fact that some girls who are compelled to leave their homes early in life to make their own living, have never been advised concerning the dangers that await them. When you know the history of these unfortunates, you are not surprised that they become the easy victims of the moral lepers to be found in every community.

Causes of Girl

Delinquency

Some parents are unbelievably lax in the supervision which they exercise over their girls. Girls who should be at home playing with their mothers' apron strings are allowed to walk the streets in company with young men concerning whose characters their mothers know nothing.

The statistics here given will indicate the number who appeared before the Court and the offences for which they appeared.

STATISTICS RE DELINQUENTS

Number dealt with, 525.

Male	492
Female	33
	<hr/> 525

Age of Delinquents

Seven	9	Thirteen	79
Eight	13	Fourteen	94
Nine	29	Fifteen	94
Ten	33	Sixteen	61
Eleven	49		<hr/>
Twelve	64		525

Causes of Delinquency

Father overseas, child beyond control of mother	93	Mother deserted family	4
Father dead, lack of proper supervision	36	Mental defectives	34
Mother dead, lack of proper supervision	24	Absence of proper spending money	48
Both parents dead, lack of proper supervision	8	Reading bad books	7
Bad home conditions	54	Saw crime committed in movies	19
Indifference of parents	63	Mischief and breach of by-laws	97
Father deserted family, child beyond control of mother....	6	Quarreling	22
		Unclassified	10
			<hr/> 525

Religion

Roman Catholic	83	Greek Orthodox	14
Presbyterian	118	Christian Science	6
Methodist	73	Plymouth Brethren	5
Church of England	85	Nazarene	1
Lutheran	49	Mormon	7
Hebrew	20	Protestant	3
Salvation Army	3	No Religion	1
Baptist	34		
Greek Catholic	23		525

Nationality

Russian	29	Half-breed	4
English	64	Indian	7
Canadian	189	Italian	3
American	70	Belgian	3
Austrian	17	Galician	5
German	37	Hollander	4
Jewish	20	Pole	7
Irish	8	Ruthenian	5
Scotch	27	Negro	2
Welsh	4	Slav	3
French	5	Chinese	1
Swedish	7		
Norwegian	4		525

Offences

Theft	226	House breaking	37
Damage to property	105	Mischief	1
Assault	15	Theft of motor cars	19
Incorrigible	42	False pretences	4
Receiving stolen property.....	3	Creating disturbances	8
Against by-law	47	Carrying fire arms	1
Immoral	11		
Indecent assault	4		525
Railway by-law	2		

Disposition

Made wards of Department....	37	Fined	55
Warned	73	Under supervision	5
Paid damages	83	Fined and probation	26
Dismissed	35	Paid damages and probation...	11
Withdrawn	2	Deported	2
Suspended sentence	44		
Probation	145		525
Industrial School	7		

JUVENILE COURTS

The Juvenile Court has not quite reached its maturity. Twenty years ago it was an almost unknown institution. To-day it is recognized as the very heart of the Child Saving Agencies. It is the barometer of the conditions affecting children, of what Thomas D. Elliott calls the delinquent pressure, or as Ferri might say, "the degree of criminal saturation of the community."

In the Juvenile Court the child is primarily regarded, not as a wrong-doer, but as the product of his environment. The experience of social workers has led to the conviction that heredity plays a very much smaller part in the development and future character of the child than environment. A juvenile should not be embarrassed by his past history. The child may live in a neglected home, may be passing through some trying school experience, may have no proper opportunity for play, or may be possessed of a temperament demanding strong excitement. To discover these conditions, to remedy them when necessary and to assist the child to meet them in other cases, is the problem before the Court.

Atmosphere of Juvenile Court

The object, of course, of a separate court is to keep the child from association with adult criminals, to make it possible to conduct the proceedings in an informal way, so as to avoid intimidation or instilling into the child a fear of the law, to make the parents feel a definite responsibility for their child.

Recently the Juvenile Court in some of the most important centres has been severely criticized. It has been intimated that heart and sympathy have very largely been eliminated and that the proceedings are conducted by a sort of "rule of rote." It is possible that too many children have been brought into Court and that officers who estimate Court efficiency by statistics have been more interested in making cases than in eliminating defects in the individual or home life. To us it appears that the Court should be largely in the nature of what is known in some places as a domestic Court. In every case where a child appears the family conditions should be thoroughly investigated. A break-down in a child's life indicates a break-down in the home life, and very frequently a break-down in the home life indicates a break-down in some phase of the community life.

Those who have not looked closely into the matter would be surprised to know the variety of cases that come before the Juvenile Court. Sometimes it is that of a child born out of wedlock, where the failure or weakness of the mother, or the criminal act of some other person, as well as the present inability of the mother or her friends to care for the child must all be considered before an intelligent decision can be reached.

Recent Criticism

A Great Variety of Cases

Sometimes it is the matter of a little foundling for whose protection some agent or society must be made responsible. Sometimes it is the hapless conditions of a family whose parent or parents have been living in known vice or who have proved incapable of providing the necessities of life for their offspring. Sometimes it is a boy who has taken a bicycle, stolen a package of cigarettes or has gone for a joy-ride in an automobile. Sometimes it is a lad of fifteen or sixteen years of age, who is guilty of a very serious misdemeanor and who must be treated, more or less, as a man. Sometimes it is a little girl who lost her purity before she knew the meaning of her own act, or was wronged by some vile wretch. Or again, it may be a parent or some other adult, who has contributed to the neglect or delinquency of children.

In all, last year cases affecting 1,500 children appeared before the eighty Juvenile Court Commissioners of this Province. A great deal of credit is due the men who, without thought of remuneration, have given their valuable time and devoted their special abilities in disposing in the most satisfactory way of this large number of cases. Special mention should be made of the Commissioners in the cities of Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

Equally important has been the work of the Girls' Court. We have now three women commissioners. Recently in Edmonton

A Unique Court

there was a unique Court sitting. Commissioner Murphy presided. The case was presented by Mrs. Chadwick and Miss Nave, as officers of the Department. The investigation concerned a young mother, whose child needed special protection. It is doubtful if anywhere else in Canada a similar proceeding could have taken place.

We have little doubt, after two years of experience, that a great advance was made when women commissioners were appointed. They naturally take a greater interest in the members of their own sex who get into difficulty, and are able to exercise a motherly influence over them. Not infrequently they gain the confidence of the girl as a male commissioner could not hope to do. In this way they glean from them their full life history and are able to make a much more satisfactory adjustment of the difficulty than would otherwise be possible.

Many of the children who appear before the Court are not normal mentally. It has been felt for some time that we should

Expert Examination Necessary

have, in addition to our present staff, a capable physician, if possible a specialist in psychology, who would be able to make expert examination in cases where there are signs of abnormality. It is criminal to hold a girl responsible for her immorality, if an examination of her mental condition proves her to be irresponsible. It is equally criminal to expect the mentally defective boy to act in a normal way. In addition to this there is a great deal of physical defect. These conditions could be pointed out and eliminated more quickly if we had a capable physician such as has been described attached to our staff.

JUVENILE COURT COMMISSIONERS

Appointments Under the Children's Protection Act

Town.	Name.
Andrew	Robert Hill Mennie.
Athabasca	Russell Edgar Bannerman.
Blairmore	James William Gresham.
Bashaw	Alfred J. Whitby.
Brooks	Charles E. Anderson.
Brooks	Leonard D. Nesbitt.
Bassano	Robert Sherritt.
Camrose	Henry Philip Foucar.
Calgary	Alexander McTaggart.
Calgary	T. A. P. Frost.
Calgary	F. D. Beveridge.
Calgary	John McAdam Sharpe.
Calgary	Alice Jane Jamieson.
Calgary	Annie Elizabeth Langford.
Coronation	Aremis Towns.
Claresholm	William McNicol.
Cardston	Josiah Austin Hammer.
Coleman	Edmund Disney.
Consort	Charles Henry Noble.
Cowley	A. J. Snyder.
Cowley	D. R. McIvor.
Chauvin	Thomas Armour.
Delia	Archibald John Campbell.
Donalda	Arthur L. Harvey.
Edmonton	Percy Henry Tucker.
Edmonton	Robert Belcher.
Edmonton	H. Allen Gray, D.D.
Edmonton	Rev. Michael Murphy.
Edmonton	Emily F. Murphy.
Fort Saskatchewan	John raul.
Foremost	John Edward Charters.
Grande Prairie	Adelia H. Bustard.
Grande Prairie	Alexander Forbes.
Gleichen	James Leigh Laycock.
Grouard	Vermer Maurice.
Grouard	Peter Tompkins.
Hardisty	George Hedley Holmes.
Hanna	Charles Schatz Finkbiner.
High River	A. W. Hamilton Thompson.
Islay	William Berty Cairns.
Innisfail	John Draught Lauder.
Innisfail	William G. McArthur.
Irricana	Robert J. Fowler.
Lacombe	Edward Montrose Sharpe.
Lacombe	George Hutton.
Lamont	Albert Ernest Archer.
Lethbridge	W. V. McMillan.
Lethbridge	J. D. Higinbotham.
Medicine Hat	O. D. Austin.
Medicine Hat	C. J. Wilson.
Medicine Hat	James Rae.
Mirror	Horace J. Rymer.
Magrath	Orsin Alpin Woolley.
Mannville	Daniel B. McLean.
Macleod	Allen Ban McDonald.

Town.	Name.
Nanton	Aaron Jessup.
Olds	Samuel James Craig.
Peace River	William Munshaw.
Ponoka	William K. Turner.
Provost	William Hamilton.
Peace River Crossing	George E. Macleod.
Peace River Crossing	James Davidson Jones.
Peace River Crossing	John P. Gaudet.
Red Deer	J. Wallace.
St. Albert	Walter Lewis Viness.
St. Albert	Edmund Poirier.
St. Paul des Metis	Joseph E. Cloutier.
Stony Plain	Murdoch McKinley.
Stettler	John Phillips Grigg.
Strathmore	William Vikory.
Strome	W. E. George Hunter.
Sedgewick	James S. McDonald.
Trochu	Sidney A. deBarethy.
Trochu	Frank Barnard.
Trochu	Frank Thynne.
Viking	James S. Barker.
Vermilion	Peter S. Pilkie.
Vulcan	William Alvin Schenk.
Warner	Albert P. Veale.
Wainwright	J. W. McQueen.
Wainwright	Frank Lush.
Wetaskiwin	Harvey E. Cutler.
Youngstown	James Woodman.

PROBATION

Two Massachusetts probation officers have recently published a book describing their fifteen years' experience in probation work. Out of three thousand young people who came under the observation of these officials, 55% were permanently saved and remained good citizens. Another 10% were kept well within the mark.

If this statement can be taken as fairly estimating the value of probation, there is no doubt that it must be regarded as the best remedial agent for dealing with young law-breakers. It can fairly be questioned whether a record of the boys or girls who have passed through any reformatory institution during the last fifteen years would compare with these results.

His Lordship Archbishop Gray, in a brief address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Children's Aid Society at Edmonton, said that in his experience as a commissioner of the Juvenile Court he found that between ninety and ninety-five per cent. of the boys he had placed upon probation had made good. This percentage is, no doubt, above the average, but it can be said quite confidently that not less than seventy-five per cent of the boys placed upon probation during the last five years have responded to that treatment.

It is sometimes supposed that probation means a kind of light or frivolous way of dealing with the juvenile offender. When a probation officer undertakes his work with that idea he is bound to be a failure. There should, of course, be a great deal of sympathy in his make-up, but he must also possess the ability to make the probationer understand that he is on serious business bent, and that delinquency cannot be looked upon lightly. His task is a varied and delicate one. He is supposed to know the probationer, to study the peculiarities of his character. He must know something about his environment, the places in which he spends his hours of amusement, the reason why he finds it difficult to adjust himself to conditions in the school. He must come into close contact with the home, must secure the sympathy of his parents. That in a great many cases is not an easy undertaking. He must find out where he sleeps, whether the home is being made attractive to him and in a thousand other ways understand the intimacies of his life. He must tie him up to those persons and institutions which will assist him to go straight. If he fails to do this, any word which he may speak or any effort which he puts forth on behalf of the boy is liable to be misdirected.

In spite of the fact that probation has affected more genuine reformations than any kind of institutional treatment, society has



A fully organized Court, with no man present.

not yet awakened to the fact that more money must be spent upon it if the system is to be maintained efficiently.

In the city of Edmonton we have one paid male probation officer working among the boys. In addition to his work as

More Officers Needed

probation officer, he has to make innumerable investigations and superintend the work of the Shelter. Under these circumstances, it is absolutely impossible for him to give to the boys who are placed upon probation, any fair amount of time. The situation is similar in Calgary, where there are two men who do probation work. In fact, in no place in the Province has this side of the work been given adequate attention. When we reflect that at present it costs the Province of Alberta about \$2.15 per day for each boy sent to Portage la Prairie Industrial School, it is easily seen that every extra man employed, if he is only able to keep three boys out of that institution, has not only saved the boys the stigma of being sent to such a school but he has more than saved his salary to the city or province, as the case may be. The time is not far distant when it will be considered absurd to have ninety policemen to one probation officer, although that is about the normal percentage in Canada at the present time. In the country districts a considerable use has been made of the volunteer probation officer. Sometimes a young man, prominent in social work in the community, has been prevailed upon to act in this capacity. The experiment in most cases has proved eminently satisfactory.

We would like here to express our appreciation of the hearty way in which these individuals have co-operated with the De-

Volunteer Probation Officers

partment in doing what was necessary in order to direct the feet of wayward youth into the path that leads to good citizenship. There is no doubt that much further use could be made of the voluntary probation officer, not only in the country, but in the cities. At the present time a committee in connection with the Rotary Club at Edmonton is considering the possibility of asking several of the members of the Club to volunteer to do this kind of work. The thought would be to ask each man willing to give time and attention to the reclamation problem to undertake the charge of one or perhaps two boys placed upon probation. He would seek to enter into friendly relationship with the boy, to find for him the proper kind of amusement, to get him tied up to some kind of profitable club or league where his energies would be properly directed. In fact, to be a big brother to him. We hope that the idea may be carried out, as we anticipate that great good would come of it.

Whether the probation officer be a volunteer or a paid official, he must know how to co-operate with other agencies and

Using Existing Agencies

institutions interested in the development of boy-life. If, as Mr. Elliott says in his book, "The Juvenile Court and the Community", "a probation officer believes in minding his own business and working independently of other agencies, there will be seen a dead probation work." A probation officer is a professional patcher-up and filler-in. Wherever community

resources are inadequate, especially if the family is defective, he must supply the lack as best he may. He is a social surgeon, but still more he is a social physician. Wherever the community is already equipped, he does not need to jump into the breach. The problem is a simple one of articulation of need with existing resources. Perhaps he can even show the community how that articulation can take place normally without friction or the anxiety of a Court proceeding. The thoroughly competent probation officer will be able in the majority of cases of family difficulty to make satisfactory adjustments without legal procedure.

In the preceding paragraphs we have discussed only the work of probation among boys. The same kind of work, but of an intenser and more intimate nature, is conducted by our matrons with the delinquent girls who come under their charge.

Probation Among Girls

It may be a surprise to some to know that it is even more difficult to deal with the girl than the boy. There are fewer committed to us, but in the majority of cases their delinquency is of a serious nature. The woman probation officer must be a friend to the girl and an instructor to the home. Frequently her first task is to find a home in which the girl may work to earn her own livelihood. She must plan for her. She must instruct her how to spend her money wisely. She must lead her into forming new companionship, into keeping good hours, and in short, into a manner of life where she will be comparatively safe.

Many an unfortunate girl, feeling that she has made a serious mistake and is marked out by the community, finds herself without companionship. Her first inclination is to seek relief from the monotony of her existence by going to some cheap theatre or dance hall, where undesirable acquaintanceships are easily formed. Too frequently it is only a short step from one of these places to a second downfall.

During the past year our matrons in Calgary and Edmonton have sought to direct the lives of some three hundred girls. A big family to be supervised by three or four women!

REPORT OF THE WOMEN PROBATION OFFICERS FOR CITY OF EDMONTON

ANNIE M. JACKSON, ADA V. DORWAY, AND M. CHADWICK.

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

We have the honor to submit to you our report for the year 1916. It seems but a day since we submitted our last annual report, and yet a year has passed.

As we think of "our family" individually, we wonder what the year has meant to each. There is much that is encouraging and brings a wonderful sense of satisfaction as we recall how many of them have progressed in building up life and character and in earning a livelihood, and in doing so have been reasonably care-free and happy. These are the girls who fortunately have escaped the damning influences of impurity of life. They are clean-minded, wholesome girls, but owing to circumstances have become the wards of the state for the sake of their protection and education; these, of course, are the easiest to deal with, and prospects are bright for their future as useful good women and citizens.

When the mind of a child or older girl has been polluted by impure things she has heard or seen, or of which she has been the victim, the task of winning her back to normal sweet girl life is tremendous. Inheritance and surroundings have done their work before the state is given a chance. One sometimes feels as if up against an unsurmountable wall in dealing with these cases. Uninviting home life, uninterested or high flung, defiant parents who cannot realize how much they have and are contributing to their daughters' disobedience and incorrigibility; vile, low-minded, often diseased, adults who lie in wait by the wayside to beguile the ignorant, innocent, thoughtless or unsuspecting girl to her downfall, are some of the difficulties to be faced. The girl is in quest of comradeship, activity and amusement, which is natural to young life. The man is selfish and deliberate in his ruinous work, and, in most cases, is many years her senior.

Difficulties to be Faced

The over-abundant supply of meaningless trashy movies, which fail of being funny because so silly and oft-times vulgar, and the cheap vaudeville, do much to undermine the minds of our youth and also to take away their delicacy and modesty, and gives them a sentimental or perverted idea of love and home-making, which ought to be regarded as something serious, sacred and beautiful. The doorway and street advertisements are as bad, or worse. Motion pictures educationally used may be very helpful, but produced only for commercial advantages, are doing much to deteriorate the mind of the individual and therefore of the nation. The girls and boys are not to blame; adults are just as faithful and foolish in their attendance. It is now time that the public should, by non-attendance, ban and put out of business much that is presented. The fads and extremes of dress and the present mode of dancing, in all circles, often indelicate and even vulgar, add their quota to the present day lightness, instability and restlessness of character. Against all of these the young girl is battling. For the girl who has no real home and who seeks her enjoyment abroad in our city, there are few places open which

are free from danger. The Sisters at Rosary Hall and Miss Bradshaw of the Y.W.C.A. have put forth splendid efforts to provide classes, clubs and amusements, but their capacity and equipment is almost nil. What a help it would be if we had a fine large building with parlors, gymnasium, swimming pool and plenty of equipment! We are grateful to many splendid women in whose homes we place girls for their patience and kindness, but we need an army of such women and "big sisters" who will each undertake the uplifting and making happier of one life. The task requires time, sympathy and special effort, perhaps not always agreeable to one, but the cause is worth the effort. Great care is exercised in guarding the girls placed in private homes.

Our own home, the "Cottage," with which we received assistance from interested organizations and individuals in furnishing, we use a great deal in entertaining, and it is always open for the girls to visit or come to us at any time and for any reason.

During the year over 200 girls have been assisted in some way. Of these, 85 were wards by Court's order, 16 others were not wards, but all of them were under more or less supervision, the majority of them constantly, others for part of the time, or occasionally.

In all 189 places were secured, as follows:

For younger girls with light home duties while attending school....	26
For older girls with light home duties while attending Business College, learning dressmaking, etc.	12
Domestic work	77
Other kinds of work	9
Under supervision with parents or relatives.....	19
In various institutions or with friends.....	22
Out of office investigations in answer to complaints, or for information or consultation	407
Interviews with girls and adults at the Cottage	76
Trains met for or with children and girls.....	41
Trips escorting girls and children to places of work, to institutions, etc.	288
Trips escorting girls or children to or from Supreme Court, Police or Juvenile Court	113
Visits with girls to doctors and dentists	53
Calls of business re money matters, Court papers, transportation, etc.	151
Meetings attended for purpose of giving addresses or in interest of children's work	34
Shopping tours with or for girls	53
Calls at cafes, hotels, cabarets, dance-halls, movies, etc.....	57
Visits with girls while at work, in institutions or while ill.....	62
Calls made with girls in quest of work.....	77
Times girls were entertained	81

1658

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) ANNIE M. JACKSON.

(Signed) ADA V. DORWAY, Jan.-July 16.

(Signed) M. CHADWICK, Oct. 23-Dec. 31st.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Child welfare work in the Province of Alberta is not in any way supported by voluntary subscription, as is the case in most other Canadian communities. The Act provides that cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more must provide and maintain a Shelter and a suitable number of probation officers.

The Government, on the other hand, undertakes to find foster homes for children, to supervise them when they are so placed, and to carry on the work in the smaller towns,

Children's the villages and the rural communities. It was
Aid Societies not intended, however, that voluntary work
Active should be eliminated. We have sought to main-

tain the co-operation of interested people. In the four larger cities we have active Children's Aid Societies. They are more active at the present time than they have been for some years. This is no doubt on account of the renewed interest that is being taken on the part of the public generally in the wider question of saving young lives.

An especial effort is being made at the present time to direct the activities of these societies along preventive, rather than palliative, lines. It is recognized as their chief function to give every assistance to the movements already on foot for the conservation of child life and to remove those causes which tend toward dependency and delinquency. At the present time, in addition to the Shelter, the Edmonton Society is maintaining a boarding home. In cases where a sudden calamity has befallen the home, children may be maintained for a normal fee, until there is opportunity for its rehabilitation.

With the hearty co-operation of the societies during the last year, there has also been a movement toward the standardization of our work. In the month of November a conference of all the workers connected with the

Closer reference of all the workers connected with the
Co-operation Children's Aid Societies and the Department,
together with the presidents of the Societies, was held in the Department offices in Edmonton. The discussions took the form of a round table conference, and many of the problems were gone into very thoroughly. It is hoped that a similar conference can be held at least once a year.

We have pleasure in presenting herewith brief reports from each of these societies.

REPORT OF AGENT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, EDMONTON

THOMAS S. MAGEE.

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

In submitting my annual report for the year 1917, I may say that it has been a busy one indeed in our Department. There was, I am pleased to report, a slight decrease in the number of juvenile delinquents that it was found necessary to bring before the Juvenile Court. On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of cases investigated, but in many of these it was found possible to make satisfactory adjustment outside the Court.

During the year I made some 1712 trips of investigation in connection with complaints received.

The following are the Juvenile Court statistics for the year:

Cases Dealt With Under the Juvenile Delinquents Act

Males	167
Females	16
	<hr/> 183

Offence		Age of Delinquents	
Housebreaking	19	8 years	3
Theft	92	9 years	8
Damage to property	20	10 years	6
Assault	6	11 years	22
Incorrigible	14	12 years	24
Receiving stolen property	3	13 years	25
Against city by-law	11	14 years	38
Immoral	1	15 years	30
Indecent assault	1	16 years	24
Theft of motor	10	17 years	3
False pretences	1		
Creating a disturbance	5		
	<hr/> 183		<hr/> 183

Disposition

Dismissed	5
Placed on probation	54
Made wards of Department	18
Sent to Industrial School	2
Warned	23
Paid damages	45
Suspended sentence	9
Paid damages and placed on probation	14
Deported	2
Fined and placed on probation	11
	<hr/> 183

Adults Charged With Contributing to Delinquency and Neglect

Number of adults charged	43
Disposition	
Convicted	41
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	1
	43

Cases Dealt With Under Children's Protection Act

Number charged as neglected	153
Disposition	
Number made wards of Department	125
Dismissed	5
Placed under supervision	23
	153
Males	65
Females	88
	153

In regard to the finances of the Children's Aid Society, I may say that these are separated in order that a clear view of the expenses of the different branches thereof may be readily seen:

Shelter, staff, inmates, etc.....	\$ 9,158.50
Probation Officers, salaries, etc.	3,599.35
Cost of maintenance of wards in Institutions, clothing, etc....	1,560.13
	\$14,317.98

I do not intend to say more about the work generally than that some of the conditions found to exist were largely brought about by the abnormal conditions which surround us today.

Our work is retarded by the absence of a good system of probation. We require officers possessing a noble tyranny in their personal influence, to act on our delinquents like a spell; and with their presence to elevate, their words to inspire, their examples to encourage them, that they may feel it more easy to fling away all that is lower and viler, because they can realize their right to what is higher and holier.

It is indeed scarcely possible to over-estimate the importance of training the young to virtuous habits. In them they are the easiest formed, and when formed they last for life; like letters cut in the bark of a tree, they grow and widen with age. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The beginning holds within it the end; the first start on the road of life determines the direction and the destination of the journey; hence, the importance of the efficient discharge of this duty in connection with our work, as it is often harder to unlearn than learn; and for this reason the Grecian flute player was justified who charged double fees to those pupils who had been taught by an inferior master.

To neglect this duty to the young will, I hold, cost the country double fees in providing for the hoary criminal in after years.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) THOMAS S. MAGEE,

Agent Children's Aid Society.



Potato-digging Season at the Calgary Shelter

REPORT OF AGENT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, CALGARY

A. D. McDONALD.

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith the Sixth Annual Report of our Society for the year 1917.

The year has been one of marked activity and progress. The great aims of the Society in protecting children from cruelty, caring for and educating neglected ones, providing foster homes for the homeless, prosecuting persons guilty of contributing to neglect or delinquency, adjusting family troubles and preventing the breaking up of homes, and in saving the weak and erring from a downward career, have been kept steadily in view. As a result, many neglected little ones, thrown upon the hands of the Society, through death or adversity, were tenderly cared for, and finally placed in good homes to become the joy and pride of devoted foster parents. Many precious young lives, overcome by temptation and the glamour of sin, were rescued by the Society and started along the line of a better life. Many children who were growing up in an atmosphere which foredoomed them to failure or to a life of criminality, were given a chance to make good under wholesome environment, and thus fitted for the duties of honourable citizenship.

Aims of Children's Aid Society

When one stops to think of the value of a single life, the magnitude and supreme importance of the work being done by the Children's Aid Society becomes at once apparent. In fact, there is no more important work in the world. The child is the nation's greatest asset, and the hope of the future. Therefore, child problems, problems relating to the child's birth, health, home training, and education, intellectual and moral, are rightly coming to be regarded as the greatest problems of our time. The rights of children, irrespective of the circumstances of their birth, are coming to be more generally recognized. It is the especial business of the Children's Aid Society to give as fair a chance as possible to unfortunate children, or to those who through death or adversity have been denied the blessings of nurture in good Christian homes. Obviously, if this special care and help is not given, these children will drift out into the world and become a burden and menace to society. Apart altogether from the humane or moral aspects of the case, it pays society to care for and save its neglected and delinquent children.

Supreme Importance of the Work

The Great War in which we are engaged has introduced many new problems. None are more vitally important than those relating to the home and the child. The appalling sacrifice of human life taking place on the battlefields of Europe greatly enhances the value of every child as a national asset, and correspondingly increases the vital importance to the state of all child-saving institutions and agencies. Among these agencies, none occupy a higher place than Children's Aid Societies.

Increase of Work Owing to War Conditions

War conditions have greatly added to the work of our Society, and have introduced many problems vitally affecting the social and domestic life. Yet it is pleasing to report that through kindly supervision and help in certain cases, very few homes had to be broken up. It is felt that it is

a most serious thing to break up a home, and this is never done except in cases where there is apparently no other remedy.

Juvenile Court

During the year there were 327 cases dealt with in the Juvenile Court. Of these 203 were delinquency cases. The remaining 124 cases were mostly ordinary cases of neglect. There were 22 juvenile delinquents remanded and nine cases of neglect remanded. Fifty-one were placed on probation and three boys were committed to Portage la Prairie for an indefinite period. There were 84 sessions of the Court held.

When it is remembered that each boy sent to the Reform School, costs the community at least \$234.00 a year, the economic value of our probation system is at once seen. But the great consideration is that it is infinitely better for the boy to reform him outside of a Reformatory. This is equally true of girls.

The Probation System a Saving to the Community

In this connection it is only fair to make mention of the valuable help received from Mr. Sharpe of the Y.M.C.A. and the Juvenile Court committee. Almost every case handed over to this committee turned out well, proving the benefits of individual personal influence in the directing of the footsteps of the wayward into safe and proper paths.

There were eighty-four sessions of the Court held, the presiding judges being J. M. Sharpe, Esq., F. D. Beveridge, Esq., and Rev. A. McTaggart for the boy cases, and Mrs. R. R. Jamieson and Mrs. Fred Langford for the girl and neglected infant cases. It would be impossible to over-estimate the value to the community of the work and influence of these Juvenile Court Commissioners, whose services are given so freely and cheerfully to the cause of child-saving and protection.

Many Cases Settled Out of Court

It need hardly be mentioned that many cases come before the Society that are not included in the figures given above. Some of our very best work is done in relation to cases of which no tabulated records are made.

There were 2032 visits made to homes, pool-rooms, dance-halls, cabarets, tobacco stores, theatres and other places under the supervision of the Society.

Newsboys

There were 238 licenses issued to newsboys. It is pleasing to report that with scarcely an exception the boys lived up to the requirements of the by-law relating to the vending of papers and that they also showed a wholesome respect for all other laws.

Our Roll of Honor

An event of considerable importance, and of great interest to us, was the unveiling of our Roll of Honour at the Shelter on November 11th. Of our 28 brave lads who went to the front, four have to date made the supreme sacrifice. A number of others have been reported as wounded or missing.

Some 100 girls came under the protection of the Society during the year. About 20 of these were runaways or girls who drifted into the city, and who only needed temporary protection until returned to their homes. Of the 80 girls who came more especially under our care and supervision, 40 were wards, and were thus under our legal control.

Twelve of these wards received the benefit of a term at the Social Service Home, before being placed out at work, or returned to their homes.

The Girl Problem

Mrs. Mathieson is forwarding a detailed report of her work in this connection.

List of Charges Against Adults for Offences in Connection With Children Prosecuted in Calgary

Offence.	Inform'n laid.	Convic'ns.	Dismiss'd.	Withdr'n.
Contributing to neglect	11	9	2	0
Contributing to delinquency	1	1	0	0
Selling cigarettes to minors ...	8	8	0	0
Permitting minors to frequent pool-rooms	1	1	0	0
Seduction	1	1	0	0
Rape	1	1	0	0
Breach of Cabaret By-law	1	1	0	0

This work continues to receive careful attention. Some 90 cases were treated during the period of this report. The principal treatments or operations were for eyes, nose, teeth, tonsils, adenoids and ruptures. The thanks of the Society are due Dr. R. B. Deane, Dr. A. T. Spankie, Dr. J. E. McDonald, Dr. A. E. Hennigar and Dr. H. A. Gibson for special work in relation to these cases. Also to Dr. Mahood of the Health Department for many favors in regard to the examination of children, and for prevention of outbreaks of disease at the Shelter. To Dr. F. W. Stockton and Dr. H. A. Gibson for their much appreciated services as visiting physicians at the Shelter, the thanks of the Society are also justly due.

Medical Treatment

The Staff at the Shelter remains much the same as last year. Miss M. L. Clint is still in charge as matron, and has proved herself to be a capable head of the institution. Miss Parrott is continuing her work as teacher under the general supervision of the School Board, and is meeting with good success in her work among the little ones. The average daily attendance was 23.

The Shelter

On the whole the health of the children has been quite good, although an outbreak of diphtheria was at one time feared. Prompt action, however, and the employment of every possible preventive measure, saved the situation.

Applications for Children

During the year there were 111 applications for children put through from the office. This was by far the largest number of applications dealt with in any one year.

Financial Statement

The following is a statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ending December 31st, 1917.

Receipts

Cash on hand 31st December, 1916.....\$ 11.41

City of Calgary Grant—

Balance for 1916 \$ 472.20

Grant for 1917\$14,500.00

Less not received until 1918..... 1,210.43

\$13,289.57

\$13,761.77

Refunds—

Parents \$2,162.40

Government 1,213.90

Sundry 77.02

\$3,453.32

Donations and Membership Fees 928.00

Sundries 1,171.00

Bank Overdraft 1,476.70

\$20,802.20

Disbursements—

Bank Overdraft—31st December, 1916		\$ 474.63
Salaries—Office	\$4,928.00	
Salaries—Shelter	4,506.14	
		9,434.14
Groceries, Hardware, etc.	\$1,930.17	
Milk and Cream	641.01	
Butter	283.73	
Bread	334.58	
Meat	347.23	
Ice	29.70	
		3,566.42
Clothing, boots, etc.	\$ 526.56	
Laundry	261.95	
Drugs	200.90	
		989.41
Fuel and light	\$1,753.68	
Telephone, etc.	209.30	
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	114.50	
Repairs and Renewals	714.99	
Travelling Expenses	15.85	
Bank Charges	34.38	
Rent	322.00	
Transportation	82.42	
Labor and Cartage	154.12	
		3,401.24
Keep of girls, Social Service Home.....	\$738.00	
Keep of Calgary children at outside points....	469.25	
Keep of children outside of Shelter	345.69	
		1,552.94
Furniture and Fixtures		503.61
Sundry Disbursements at Office and Shelter		295.27
Purchase of Horse	\$ 95.00	
Maintenance of Horse	178.70	
		273.70
Lease of Land and Potatoes		308.25
Cash on hand		2.59
Total.....		\$20,802.20

The Society would not close its report without placing on record its grateful appreciation of the city's generous aid and co-operation, and would make special mention of the great boon conferred, in the connecting of the Shelter with the water system of the city.

Acknowledgments

Kindly mention would also be made of favors given by the Press; also of courtesies and aid received from the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and W.C.T.U., the Social Service, the Associated Charities, the Health Department, the doctors of the city and Chief Cuddy and the Police Department generally. To the friends who contributed money, clothing, toys, books, fruits, etc. To the Grand, Allen and Regent Theatres for entertainments given the children. To the Rotary Club for very generous help in a special case, and to the many friends who in various ways helped us in our work, the thanks of the Society are gratefully tendered.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) A. D. McDONALD,

Agent.

REPORT OF LETHBRIDGE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

WILLIAM LAMB.

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith the annual report of our Society for the year 1917.

Cases dealt with under Juvenile Delinquents Act.....	28
Males	24
Females	4
	28
Cases dealt with under the Children's Protection Act	7
Males	3
Females	4
	7
	35
Number of adults charged with contributing	3

Cases Dealt With Out of Court

Three hundred and eleven cases were dealt with out of Court, being of varied character, such as destroying property, breaking windows, annoying neighbors, etc. Fifty-three children were picked up on the street, being out after curfew, lost children, etc.

Financial Statement

Children's Shelter, Lethbridge

Expenditure.....	\$4,086.13	Income.....	\$1,250.85
Income derived from the following sources:			
Government of Alberta		\$	661.20
Lethbridge Schools			543.00
Miscellaneous			46.65
			\$1,250.85
Expense to City of Lethbridge			2,835.28
			\$4,086.13

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) WILLIAM LAMB,

Probation Officer.

REPORT OF MEDICINE HAT CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

CURTIS HOLLINGER.

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

In this report, the work by the Probation Officer covers a period of nine months, beginning with April 1st, working on part time basis. There are no available records for the first three months of the year.

The Shelter and Financial Reports cover twelve months.

Cases Dealt With Under Juvenile Delinquents Act

(Nine Months)

Male	21
Female	0
Total	21

Offence

Theft	15
By-law	3
Assault	1
Damage to property	2
Total	21

Ages of Delinquents

17 and under	1
16 and under	1
15 and under	4
14 and under	6
13 and under	3
12 and under	4
11 and under	2
Total	21
Dismissed	1
Placed on Probation	12
Made Ward of Department	1
Fined	7
Total	21

Cases Dealt With Under the Children's Protection Act

(Nine Months)

Number charged as neglected children	11
Males	5
Females	6
	11

Number made Wards of the Department	10
Number dismissed	1
	<hr/>
	11
Number adults charged with contributing to neglect.....	1
Number convicted	1
Number adults charged with interfering with ward, case withdrawn	1

Financial Statement of Children's Shelter

(Twelve Months)

And Probation Officer

(Nine Months)

Total Expenditure	\$6,500.00
Total Revenue	1,034.00
	<hr/>
Net Expenditure	\$5,466.00
Furnishings and Buildings Repairs	360.00
	<hr/>
Net cost of Salaries and Maintenance	\$5,106.00

Much of my time is used in adjusting cases out of Court. The cases settled by mediation, satisfying the parties concerned, when in my opinion nothing more will be gained by the Juvenile Court proceedings, are dropped without bringing them before the Commissioner.

During the past nine months such cases totalled 159, as follows:

Damaging property	40
Disorderly conduct	38
Assaults and trespassing	34
Adjusting home conditions	47
	<hr/>
Total.....	159

About 2 per cent. of these cases had to be handled the second time, and all of them were kept under observation for a time.

War conditions are daily increasing the demands of the Probation Officer's assistance. The absence of fathers and brothers permits children to become uncontrollable. Many mothers fail to protect and support the family, owing to lack of business ability or their own sin of selfish pleasure-seeking. The Children's Protection Officer must assist to save these homes. Encouragement, persuasion, aid in business matters, securing others to assist, and if necessary, the Juvenile Laws, are used in dealing with this difficult and alarming problem.

The workings of The Children's Protection Act in this locality is in the pioneering stage, and, when better understood, in some future time, will be sufficiently supported to widen its usefulness.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) CURTIS HOLLINGER,

Probation Officer.

The four inspectors and the travelling matron employed by the Department do in the country districts work similar to that undertaken by the agents of the Children's Aid Societies in the cities. In addition to that they undertake the most important task of visiting the wards of the Department that have been placed in foster homes. Herewith is attached a brief report from the chief inspector:

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

I have the honor to forward herewith a synopsis of the work under my jurisdiction during the year ending December 31st, 1917.

We have investigated some 304 cases of neglect, and in all were successful in disposing of same in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. As a statistical record I might mention that a distance of 56,354 miles was travelled by train and 10,863 miles by road, by myself and a distance of 1,226 miles by train and 48 miles by road by Miss Robinson, Travelling Matron, in order that the business of this branch of the Department could be efficiently handled.

It was necessary during the year to take judicial action to punish delinquency, and every effort possible has been used to bring about better conditions, both from the viewpoint of the child, and that of the parents. As regards the foster homes, strict supervision has been exercised with equally successful results.

In conclusion, I might say that my observations lead me to believe that parents are being educated to the fact of the control exercised upon them by the Department with the result that they are becoming more than ever aware of their responsibility for the actions and welfare of the child, and much more observant of the law in that respect, all of which tends to the improvement in home conditions, that we are so anxious to inculcate.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) A. R. BROOKE,

Inspector.

SHELTERS

There is little, if anything, new to record in the work which is being done in the Shelters.

It is noteworthy that the health of the children in the four Shelters for the year was above the average. In view of the fact that underfed, uncared-for children of every age, from infants of a few days to young men and women of seventeen years, are admitted, this is a remarkable fact. We think a great deal of credit is due to the matrons and their assistants for the care that has been given to the children. It should be understood that it is not the business of these homes to maintain children for any long period. The Act provides that no child formally committed to a Society or the Department by Court's orders, shall be detained in the Shelter for more than three months.

It has not been necessary to maintain many of the children for any length of time. In a few instances, abnormal children, or children who needed long medical treatment, or were afflicted with some other defect that could not be remedied, have been detained for a longer period. In institutions where inmates are changing so constantly—there were over seven hundred children passed through the Edmonton Shelter last year—it is difficult to maintain the family or home spirit.

A great effort is being made, however, to leave the stamp of the institutions upon every child that passes through them. Many of the children that enter these homes have known very little of cleanliness or well-directed home life. It is felt that their first contact with these things should leave an indelible impression upon them.

The Shelters act more or less as a children's hospital. In them almost innumerable physical defects are remedied, adenoids, tonsils, hernia, defective hearing, defective vision and the many ailments to which neglected children are heir, are thoroughly treated. The Department is under a deep debt of gratitude to the doctors who have given their services so freely for the benefit of these needy little tots.

In order to prevent repetition of the disgraceful conditions that have been discovered in the city of Chicago and other communities where private individuals and companies have been permitted to establish baby farms and kindred institutions without any public control, the Province should provide some means for the inspection by a competent official of every home permitted to take children for board. Unbelievable cruelties have been practiced by the keepers of these places. One boarding baby in Chicago slept with an old caretaker, in a

**Inmates
Constantly
Changing**

**Credit Due
Doctors**

**Supervision
for Private
Boarding
Homes**

bed used in the day time by two male boarders, engaged in night employment. In some instances the keepers of these places were notoriously immoral. There is no hint that such conditions exist in this Province, but without a proper system of supervision, the process of degeneration may set in at any moment.



Boys will be boys. Why not give them a playground, instead of a street corner? On the one, man-timber is made, the other leads to delinquency.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, EDMONTON

G. BATE.

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

Permit me to submit the following report of the Children's Shelter for the year ending December 31st, 1917.

The Shelter has been maintained at its usual efficiency, notwithstanding the financial stringency, and the high cost of living. The children have been well fed and comfortably clad.

The staff has remained intact. Therefore the work has been carried on comprehensively and harmoniously. We have been very free from illness, there being no contagion throughout the year.

Out of the 149 infants cared for, eight died, a small number considering the low vitality of many of these little ones.

Our infant work furnishes the most interesting work of the Shelter, and calls for the best skill of doctors and nurses.

We are looking forward with a reasonable hope to some time having segregation of boys in the Shelter, which will greatly aid the success of our work.

We have been very generously remembered during the year in the way of donations, and help in the making of clothing, by friends in the city and outside.

No. of children dealt with 717

Neglected and Dependent.

Male	307
Female	279
	<hr/>
	586

Delinquent

Male	97
Female	34
	<hr/>
	131

Age of Children.

1 year and under	149
2 years and under	52
3 years and under	34
4 years and under	29
5 years and under	13
6 years and under	21
7 years and under	33
8 years and under	36
9 years and under	18
10 years and under	37
11 years and under	32
12 years and under	46
13 years and under	46
14 years and under	43
15 years and under	52
16 years and under	76
	<hr/>
	717

Number of Children in Shelter at end of the year—

Male	23
Female	12
	<hr/>
	35

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) · G. BATE,

Matron.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, CALGARY

MILDRED L. CLINT.

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit the following report:

In the past year we have been caring for on an average of forty children per month. During this period their health has been good, with the exception of epidemics of chickenpox, diphtheria and measles, which were then prevalent in the city.

Conditions were greatly improved in the Home last year, one reason being the installation of city water. Hitherto we had been dependent on an inadequate supply from a pump. Secondly, the large heater supplied which was certainly essential to an institution, and thirdly, the addition of small tables placed in the dining room, at which the children eat. We place one large child to each table, whose duty it is to oversee the conduct of the other children at his or her table. It is a great incentive to the children to improve. Good table linen and china have also been provided.

It is interesting to note that 28 of our boys have been serving in France, two of whom have been killed in action. The unveiling of our Honor Roll was quite a success, and the part our children took in the programme was done quite creditably.

The committee undertook this year to provide Christmas cheer for these boys, each member being responsible for the boxes of two boys, and the thought that prompted these good people to act thus was surely an exemplary one.

We have acquired more land, and it is our aim to make the Home self-supporting. Much is due our janitor for the interest he takes in the games of the children and also for the Christmas decorations. I might say our last Christmas was the best since I have been in the Home. The children under the supervision of our school teacher had a Mother Goose Jubilee, and it was surely a decided success.

We are fortunate in having such an efficient committee, all of whom are indefatigable workers for the welfare of the children.

We are indebted to the many persons and institutions who contributed in the way of entertainments, etc., for the children. I am grateful to the staff for their help in the work during the year that has gone, and hope that we can make this year a banner year in the life of the home.

Number of children admitted—

From City	126
-----------------	-----

Neglected and Dependent—

Male	90
Female	68

Delinquent—

Male	7
Female	1

166

Age of Children

1 year and under	38
2 years and under	21
3 years and under	14
4 years and under	12
5 years and under	8
6 years and under	11
7 years and under	7
8 years and under	5
9 years and under	11
10 years and under	5
11 years and under	7
12 years and under	7
13 years and under	6
14 years and under	5
15 years and under	5
16 years and under	4

166

Number Discharged.

Returned to parents or guardians	73
Adopted	24
Placed for work	12
In other ways	9
	118

Number of children in Shelter at present time—

Male	17
Female	31
	48

166

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) MILDRED L. CLINT,

Matron.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, LETHBRIDGE

H. MARCHANT.

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I may say that my work for the four months I have been here has been very interesting.

The following instances serve to indicate the kind of work which we are doing:—

Harold A. Smith, who is still in the Shelter, has improved quite a lot, as he is smarter and brighter than when he first came here. He is also doing splendidly at school and always gets a good report.

Leo Young, who was here for a short time, improved in his bad habits before he left for his foster home. His foster mother said she could see a great improvement in him when she came to take him away with her again.

Catherine McDonald seemed to be a girl with a very stubborn character; when she first came to the Shelter she did nothing but read. After being talked to and her faults pointed out to her, she promised to try and improve them, so I think she will make good, as I received a letter from her last week and she seemed quite contented at home, doing home duties.

Thelma White, who was beyond her mother's control, seemed as though she did not care what became of her when she was first brought here. She seemed a very vain girl, and was not fond of work, but before she left for her guardians at Princeton, had greatly improved. I think, with a little careful training, she will make a good girl.

Albert Goodman, who is still here, seems to be a very willing boy, and does his work well, but seems to be too fond of girls' company. We hope to be able to cure him of that habit.

Number of children admitted—

From City	0
-----------------	---

Neglected and Dependent—

Male	4
Female	11

Delinquent—

Male	2
Female	4

21

Age of Children

1 year and under	4
2 years and under	1
3 years and under	0
4 years and under	0
5 years and under	0
6 years and under	0
7 years and under	0
8 years and under	3
9 years and under	2
10 years and under	0
11 years and under	0

12 years and under	3
13 years and under	4
14 years and under	1
15 years and under	2
16 years and under	1

21

Number Discharged.

Returned to parents or guardians	5
Adopted	7
Placed for work	5
In other ways	2

Number of children in Shelter at present time—

Male	2
Female	0

21

In Shelter From 1916

Male	4
Female	5

9

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) H. MARCHANT,

Matron.

REPORT OF MEDICINE HAT CHILDREN'S SHELTER

CURTIS HOLLINGER.

A. M. McDONALD,
Superintendent of Dependent and Delinquent Children,
 Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

The following is a brief statement relating to the Children's Shelter, Medicine Hat:

Number of children admitted	59
Dependent	53
Delinquent	6
	<hr/>
	59
Dependents—	
Male	22
Female	31
Delinquents—	
Male	3
Female	3
	<hr/>
	59

Ages of Children Admitted

1 year and under	4
2 years and under	4
3 years and under	1
4 years and under	7
5 years and under	3
6 years and under	3
7 years and under	2
8 years and under	4
9 years and under	4
10 years and under	6
11 years and under	3
12 years and under	0
13 years and under	8
14 years and under	5
15 years and under	2
16 years and under	3
	<hr/>
	59

Number in Shelter December 31st, 1917 9

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) CURTIS HOLLINGER,

Probation Officer.

A TYPE FOR WHICH LITTLE CAN BE DONE



As he appeared five years ago.



As he appears now.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Certain offences call for instant correction. It would be a serious error to refuse to place a delinquent in a training school, where the child's habits are such that restraint is necessary, or where the child's acts may endanger the safety or morals of other children. A weak sentimentality which prevents commitment in serious cases can work just as much harm to the community as a system of placing children in institutions by the wholesale, where other less drastic means of correction are at hand. What the Department seeks to do in every instance is to correct by eliminating the existing error or fault. If a commitment is required it is made, but if not absolutely necessary the same result is sought through probation or other effective methods. During 1917 twenty-eight boys were committed to the Industrial Training School at Portage la Prairie. This institution, under the management of Superintendent F. W. McKinnon, is doing excellent corrective work. Although only the out-and-out incorrigibles are committed, the majority of them graduate prepared to enter the world and take their places as good citizens.

The modern institution for the delinquent boy does not carry the repellent suggestion of a penal institution so characteristic of the old-time reformatory. It is, instead, a school without a fence or a bar, and with the atmosphere, so far as possible, of a home. Penology has been succeeded by enlightened pedagogy. Apart from the fact that the buildings at Portage la Prairie are along the old institutional lines, and make it almost impossible to segregate the boys according to age and character of misdemeanor, as would be possible in a modern cottage system, the work is conducted in the most up-to-date way.

In addition to attending school one-half of each school day and taking up the public school curriculum of the Province, each boy gives one-half of each day to the study of a trade. In many respects the system in the school corresponds to what is known as the Garry system. Up until about a year ago, the expense of maintaining our boys there was a nominal one, the Manitoba Government agreeing to keep them for \$1.00 a day each, and provide them with all the necessities. According to a new agreement entered into between the Governments of the two Provinces, we now pay on a per capita basis, according to the number of boys we have there. Last year it cost us about \$2.15 per day for each boy. In addition to that it requires almost \$100.00 to send a boy to Portage and have him returned. It will cost us about \$900.00 per year for each boy we find necessary to maintain there. This fact suggests the advisability of providing a suitable institution at home. The Department feels that it

would be a wise investment for the Province to provide a farm home for delinquent boys. It would not be necessary to erect expensive buildings, nor to provide for elaborate tuition. The need of our Province, very largely, is for men who are trained in agriculture. If there could be secured a farm with a few simple but comfortable cottages built upon it, we believe that the boys who are now sent to Portage la Prairie could be placed there under competent mentors, who would work with and be responsible for them. It should not be impossible to make such an institution practically self-supporting.

Conditions with regard to the institutions for girls have not changed since our last report. We are still maintaining them in

**Social
Service
Homes**

the various Social Service Homes in the Province. Excellent work has been done by the Social Service Home in Edmonton under the leadership of Mrs. Askew. There is a similar institution in Calgary under the efficient management of

Miss Pettigrew.

Mention should also be made of the very excellent work being done for the Catholic girls by the Sisters of the Home of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge in Edmonton. With the equipment at their command it would be impossible, we think, for these institutions to do more than they are now undertaking for the girls.

We should not be content to maintain our girls indefinitely in these institutions. They are not sufficiently equipped to serve them. Provision should be made by them so that the young incorrigible girls without sex experience could be segregated.; that the girls with sex experience should also be in a class by themselves. In no case should diseased girls be allowed to mingle with those who are normally healthy. In addition to this, there should be ample facilities to keep the girls busy at some occupation.

Miss Martha P. Falkner, Superintendent of the Sleighton Farm for Girls, located in the State of Pennsylvania, in a recent

**An Expert's
Experience**

address, made the following comment: "In developing such an institution it is important first to obtain a large tract of land. Care should be taken to have it suitably located. Difficulties of access, expense of hauling supplies, are of little import when compared with the desirability of having nervous sexually immoral girls living out of doors. We consider this a vitally important thing.

"The schools should employ a woman physician, a woman dentist, and, if possible, a woman optician, to visit the school on certain days during the week. A scientifically trained woman farmer to direct the farm work. There should be classes for girls in sewing, millinery, shorthand, typewriting, as well as in domestic science." What is said here is not in any way to criticize the institutions already working, but in the hope that either through these same institutions, or in some other way, a more thoroughly equipped institution may soon be at our disposal.

Placed in Reformatory Institutions, 34

Male	12
Female	22
	<hr/>
	34

Offences (Male)

Theft	6
Incorrigible	4
Immoral	2
	<hr/>
	12

Nationality (Male)

English	1
Canadian	2
American	4
Norwegian	1
German	1
Greek	1
Half-breed	1
Negro	1
	<hr/>
	12

Religion (Male)

Church of England	1
Presbyterian	2
Methodist	3
Roman Catholic	4
Lutheran	2
	<hr/>
	12

Age (Male)

12 years	2
13 years	1
14 years	1
15 years	3
16 years	4
17 years	1
	<hr/>
	12

Offences (Female)

Theft	2
Incorrigible	10
Immoral	10
	<hr/>
	22

Nationality (Female)

English	5
Canadian	6
American	7
Russian	1
Austrian	1
German	2
	<hr/>
	22

Religion (Female)

Church of England	3
Presbyterian	3
Methodist	4
Baptist	3
Roman Catholic	6
Greek Orthodox	1
Lutheran	2
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	22

Age (Female)

12 years	1
13 years	1
14 years	3
15 years	6
16 years	7
17 years	4
	<hr/>
	22



At 13 years.



Now 18 years, but still a child

REACHING THE RESPONSIBLE ADULT

“The two most effective ways of reaching adults responsible for the delinquent and neglected child is through an adequate contributory law, carrying a fine or imprisonment, or both, and by the persuasion or instruction of various kinds by the Probation Officer. The degree of success will depend upon the drasticness of the contributory law and the persuasive powers of the officer.”

The above statement, made by the Chief Probation Officer of Washington, D.C., sums up very tersely the problem of dealing effectively with the adults responsible for the fact that so many children become public charges. The method of persuasion may be sufficient for those who, through carelessness and indifference, allow their offspring to take the easiest way, which is generally the wrong way, but some more direct method must be used in the case of those who maliciously and deliberately train their children in vice and delinquency, and perhaps enjoy the financial fruits of their work. The former class are for the most part ignorant, and fail to realize the consequences of their indifference. Most of them are quite surprised when they are told that the community has any right to dictate their actions as they affect their children.

Persuasion Sometimes Effective

The majority of them concede that they should be forced to give them a sufficient amount of food and clothing, but beyond that they do not regard the community as having any right to interfere. This statement refers to a very large class of people who neglect to provide proper housing accommodation, live carelessly in the presence of their children, allow them to enter into evil companionships, or spend their time in questionable amusement. There is no doubt that a wise Probation Officer can adjust these things, especially when he is able to hold the threat of a legal action as a sort of club with which to back his words.

Little consideration, however, can be given to the person who deliberately turns the steps of children in the wrong way. It would be surprising to the public to know the number of mothers, as well as fathers, who are guilty of this most criminal proceeding.

More Drastic Action Necessary

Our contributory laws make it fairly easy to reach the parent, and we are of the opinion that they should be used to a greater extent than at present. It is a strange twist in the mental make-up of officials responsible for enforcing the law when it is counted the right thing to send a man to jail for the theft of a few dollars, but to hesitate to deal in any severe way with an adult who robs a child of his birthright.

Recent decisions have shown that it is very difficult to reach adults, other than parents, who contribute to child delinquency or neglect. No matter how pernicious the act, unless it is actually

committed in the presence of children who can be proven neglected or delinquent, there is no way of reaching the offender.

A man may enter a home where children live, vitiate the whole atmosphere with his immoral living, poison the very air that the children breathe, and yet there is no effective way of dealing with him.

The need at the present time is for some more comprehensive contributory legislation.

Undaunted by the difficulties of the situation, we have tried to bring as many adults to justice as was possible under the circumstances. During the year some 132 were tried. In some instances these were most serious offences. In addition to the adults prosecuted under The Children's Act, the Department was instrumental in having criminal prosecution started through the regular channels against a number who committed very serious offences.

Here we would express our appreciation of the assistance given to us by the Police of the various cities, as well as by the Alberta Provincial Police.

In a previous report, we noted the difficulty in cases where evidence must be given by children. A child may give a very straight story, but under tense excitement and a cross-examination may fall down completely. The benefit of a doubt must be given to the accused, and because a child's evidence can be so shaken, many a guilty man goes free. From a layman's point of view, it would seem that some better way could be adopted for eliciting evidence from children. If the Court itself were to ask all the questions at the suggestion of the Attorneys interested in the case in an effort simply to get at the truth, greater justice would be done.

List of Convictions Against Adults for Offences Against Children.

Offence.	Inform'n laid. Convic'ns. Dismiss'd. Withdr'n.			
Contributing to neglect or delinquency	103	85	16	2
Selling cigarettes to minors....	11	11	0	0
Allowing minors to frequent pool room	1	1	0	0
Breach of cabaret By-law	1	1	0	0
Seduction	11	9	2	0
Carnal knowledge	5	3	2	0
	<hr/> 132	<hr/> 110	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 2

THE FEEBLE-MINDED

The presence of a considerable percentage of feeble-minded persons in the community, increases the number of neglected and delinquent children who must be cared for at the expense of the community. The Department is somewhat handicapped in that it has not on its staff a qualified physician who can apply standard tests and make accurate decisions with regard to the feeble-minded children who come under our charge.

According to the best classification that we are able to make, there were 94 such children who came to us last year. A num-

Accurate ber of these might possibly be put down as
Classification imbeciles, but the large proportion of them are
Difficult morons or border-line defectives. Many of them
 are the children of defective parents, who are still
 at large and rearing more defective children.

Their brains are not diseased, but they have not been provided with sufficient amount of mental machinery. Many of them could be taught to do useful things, but they can never get beyond a certain mark in educational training and judgment. For many years the Educational Department of the Government has had this problem under serious consideration, and it was hoped that an institution would have been opened where many of these children could be segregated. War conditions have, we understand, altered the plans to some extent. The problem, however, is an urgent one, which will have to be faced in the very near future. At the present time, mentally defective children are retarding the progress of our regular school classes. They are preventing the most effective work being done in our institutions for delinquents and dependents. They are adding to the disease and criminality of the country, and in other ways imposing a heavy burden upon the community.

Great as the expense involved in segregating them in institutions would be, it is doubtful if it really would be as great as that which they now entail upon the public.

Segregation In addition to providing an institution, classes
Expensive should be established for backward children,
 especially in our cities. There should also be a
psychiatric clinic in connection with our Juvenile and Police Courts. The proper administration of justice necessitates, not only the study of law and precedents, but an even more careful study of the individuals directly concerned.

Experience shows that it is impossible to place defectives in foster homes with any satisfactory results. An effort has been made in some instances, but almost without exception, it has meant frequent changes. To place many of them in Social Service Institutions or Industrial Schools, along with normal boys and girls, would do them no good and would be a serious menace to the other inmates.

Special consideration should be given to the care of feeble-minded persons of child-bearing age. Scientists claim to know that they are more prolific than normal persons. They have the minds of children, but the passions and instincts of adults. The percentage of feeble-minded persons in the state is gradually increasing. These children are born to a life of misery. They will never be an asset, but always a liability to the state.

For the sake of the work of this Department, we hope that the time is not far distant when more suitable provision can be made for them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In closing this report we would like to express our appreciation of the very practical and sympathetic interest taken in the work for children by the Honourable C. W. Cross, Attorney-General for the Province, and the very valuable assistance rendered to us by the various organizations and individuals, who have so kindly co-operated with us. ✓

Special mention should be made of the foster parents, who have received as their own homeless and destitute children and are training them into useful citizenship. ✓

Of the Provincial and Municipal Police forces, who have always been ready to lend their assistance and active co-operation in enforcing the Children's Protection Act, and without whose assistance it would have been impossible to accomplish much of the important work referred to in this report. C.W.

Of the institutions which have received and cared for many children with whom it was otherwise impossible to deal. Among these should be mentioned the Social Service Home in Calgary, the Social Service Home in Edmonton, the Beulah Home, Edmonton, the Lacombe Home, Midnapore, Youville Convent, St. Albert, and the Sisters of the Home of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, Edmonton.

Of the medical men, many of whom have most willingly given their time and skill to remedying physical defects without any thought of remuneration.

Of the commissioners appointed in the various districts of the province, who have exercised so much patience and insight in making satisfactory disposition of the cases brought before them.

Of the newspapers, which have shown so much courtesy in publishing articles sent to them and devoting their space so generously to the greater problem of child-saving in the community.

Of the various churches and kindred organizations, who have so heartily co-operated with us in extending the plea for the betterment of conditions of child life and in many cases interesting people who otherwise would have given little thought to the good of the dependant and delinquent children in Alberta.

